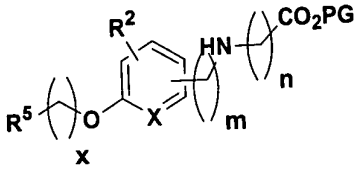
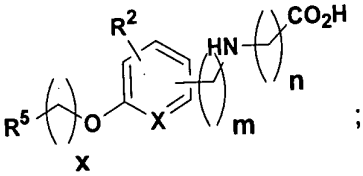
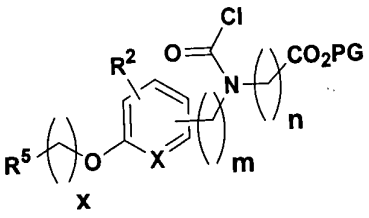
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

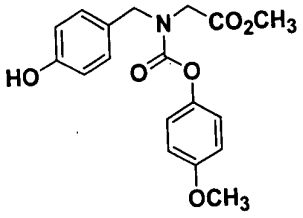
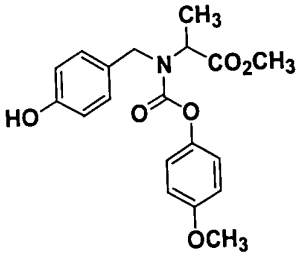
Claims 1 to 54 (cancelled).

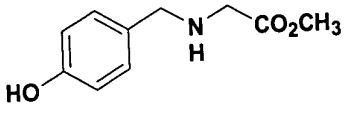
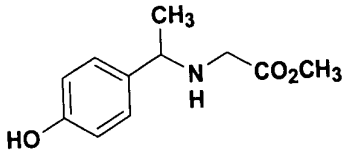
55. (New) A compound having the structure

amino ester (a)  ;

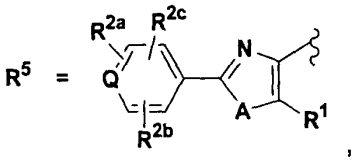
amino acid (b)  ;

carbamoyl chloride (c)  ;

(d)  ; (d') 

(e)  ; or (e') 

wherein PG is a carboxylic acid protecting group, and



wherein x is 1, 2, 3 or 4; m is 1 or 2; n is 1 or 2;

Q is C or N;

A is O or S;

R^1 is H or lower alkyl;

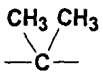
X is CH

R^2 is H, alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, amino or substituted amino;

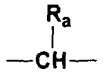
R^{2a}, R^{2b} and R^{2c} are the same or different and are selected from H, alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, amino or substituted amino;

or stereoisomers thereof, or a prodrug ester thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

56. (New) The compound as defined in Claim 55 wherein $(CH_2)_x$ is CH_2, $(CH_2)_2$, $(CH_2)_3$, or

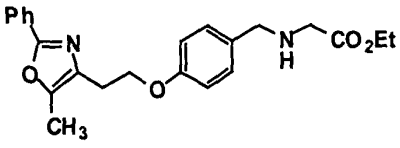


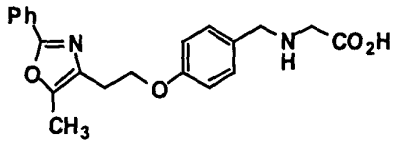
$(CH_2)_m$ is CH_2, or



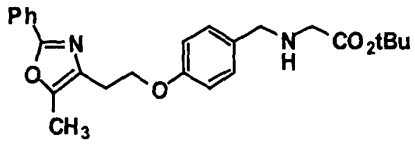
wherein R_a is alkyl or alkenyl, $(CH_2)_n$ is CH_2, R^1 is lower alkyl, and R^{2a} H, R^4 is H, X is CH; and PG is methyl, ethyl or t-butyl.

57. (New) The compound as defined in Claim 55 having the structure

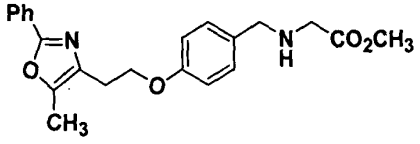




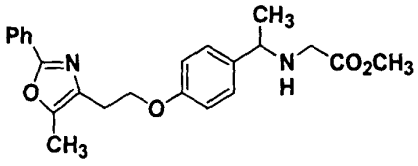
,

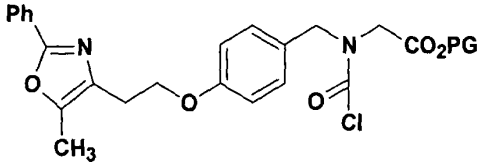


,



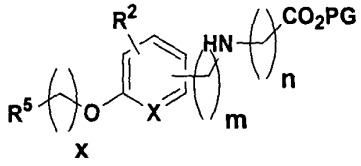
, or



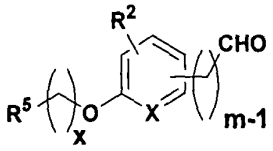


.

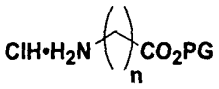
58. (New) A method for preparing amino ester (a) as defined in Claim 55 having the structure



which comprises subjecting an aldehyde of the structure

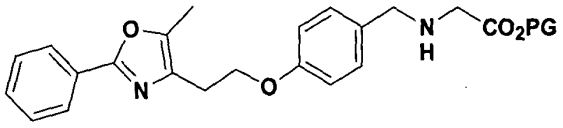


to reductive amination by treating the aldehyde with an amino-ester hydrochloride of the structure

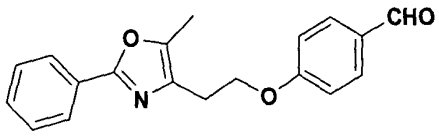


to form amino ester (a).

59. (New) The method as defined in Claim 58 wherein amino ester (a) has the structure



the aldehyde has the structure



, and

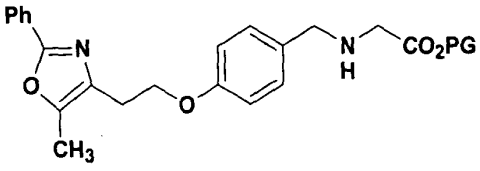
the amino-ester hydrochloride has the structure

ClH•H$_2$N CH$_2$CO$_2$PG

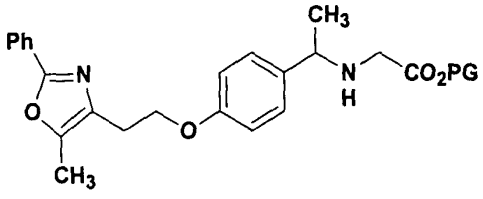
wherein PG is a carboxylic acid protecting group.

60. (New) A method for preparing amino acid compound (b) as defined in Claim 55 which comprises subjecting amino ester (a) as defined in Claim 55 to deprotection under basic conditions where PG is methyl or under acidic conditions where PG is t-butyl, to furnish amino acid (b).

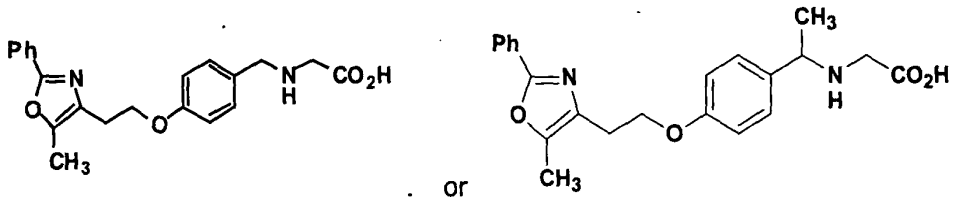
61. (New) The method as defined in Claim 60 wherein amino ester (a) has the structure



or

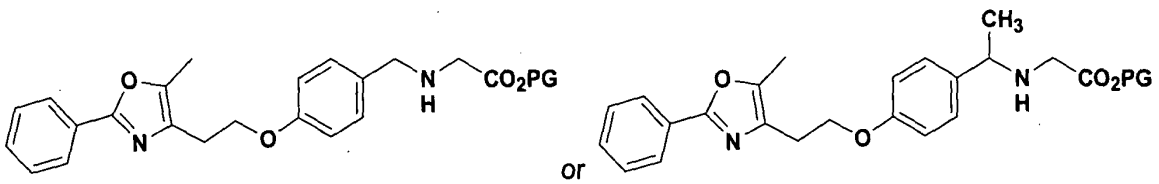


and amino acid compound (b) has the structure

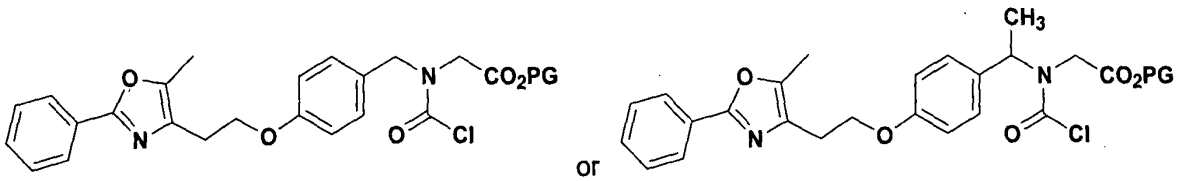


62. (New) A method for preparing carbamoyl chloride (c) as defined in Claim 55 which comprises treating amino ester (a) with phosgene $(COCl)_2$ to form carbamoyl chloride (c).

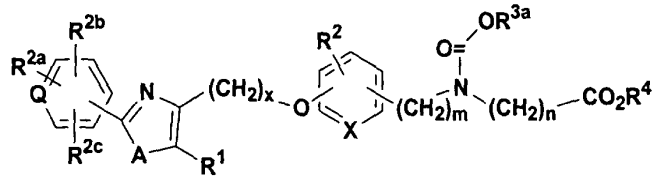
63. (New) The method as defined in Claim 62 wherein amino ester (a) has the structure



and carbamoyl chloride (c) has the structure



64. (New) A method for preparing an amino ester compound (a') which has the structure



wherein x is 1, 2, 3 or 4; m is 1 or 2; n is 1 or 2;

Q is C;

A is O;

R^1 is H or lower alkyl;

X is CH;

R_2 is H, alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, amino or substituted amino;

R^{2a}, R^{2b} and R^{2c} are the same or different and are selected from H, alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, amino or substituted amino;

where R^{3a} is alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl;

R^4 is H or alkyl;

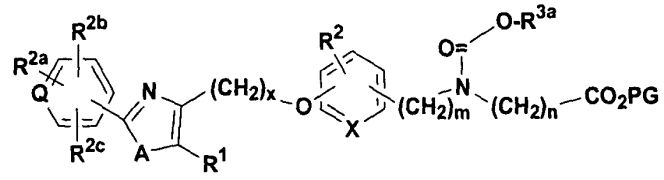
or stereoisomers thereof, or a prodrug ester thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

with the proviso that where X is CH, A is O, Q is C, then R^{3a} is other than alkyl containing 1 to 5 carbons in the normal chain, which comprises treating the amino ester (a) as defined in Claim 55 with a chloroformate of the structure

R^{3a}–OCOCl

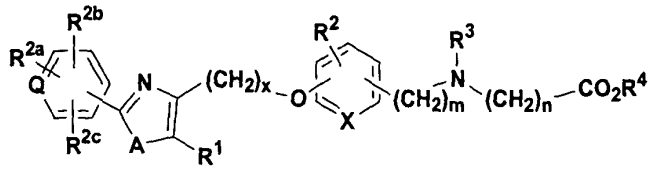
wherein R^{3a} is alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl,

in the presence of a base to form the amino ester compound (a')



where PG is methyl, ethyl or t-butyl, and deprotecting the amino ester to form the corresponding amino acid.

65. (New) A method for preparing an amino ester compound (a) which has the structure



wherein x is 1, 2, 3 or 4; m is 1 or 2; n is 1 or 2;

Q is C;

A is O;

R^1 is H or lower alkyl;

X is CH;

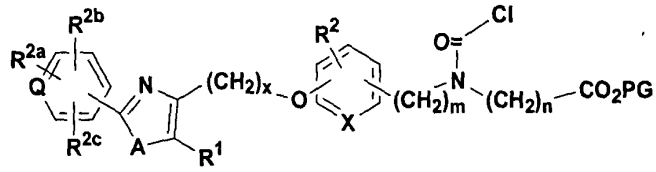
R_2 is H, alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, amino or substituted amino;

R^{2a}, R^{2b} and R^{2c} are the same or different and are selected from H, alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, amino or substituted amino;

R^3 is aryloxycarbonyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkyl(halo)aryloxycarbonyl, alkyloxy(halo)aryloxycarbonyl, cycloalkylaryloxycarbonyl, cycloalkyloxyaryloxycarbonyl, heteroaryloxycarbonyl, alkoxyaryloxycarbonyl, arylalkyloxycarbonyl, alkylaryloxycarbonyl, haloalkoxyaryloxycarbonyl, aryloxyaryloxycarbonyl, alkoxycarbonylaryloxycarbonyl, aryloxyarylalkyloxycarbonyl, aryloxyalkyloxycarbonyl, aryloxyalkyloxycarbonyl, heteroarylalkoxycarbonyl, or polyhaloalkylaryloxycarbonyl

R^4 is H or alkyl;

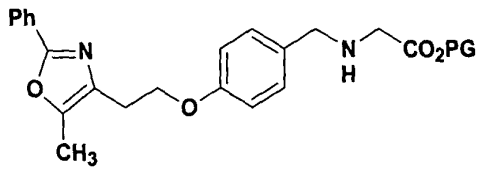
or stereoisomers thereof, or a prodrug ester thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which comprises treating the amino ester (a) as defined in Claim 55 with phosgene to form the carbamoyl chloride of the structure



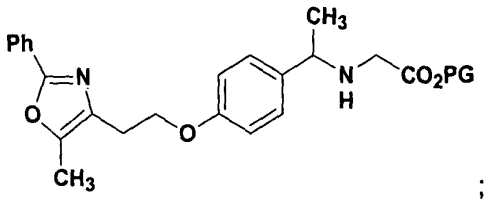
where PG is methyl, ethyl or t-butyl and treating the carbamoyl chloride with R^{3a} OH is alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl

66. (New) The method as defined in Claim 64 wherein the amino ester is deprotected by reacting it with lithium hydroxide.

67. (New) The method as defined in Claim 64 wherein the amino ester (a) has the structure

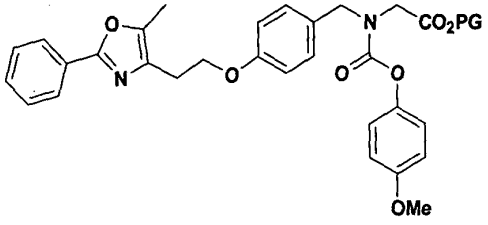


, or

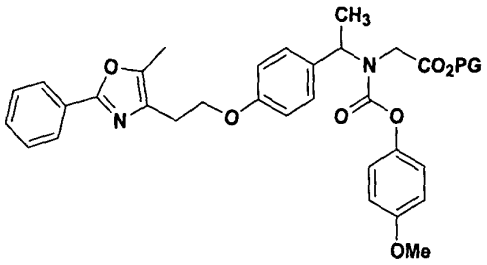


;

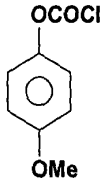
the amino ester compound (a′) has the structure



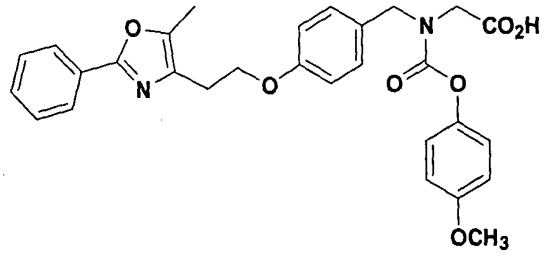
, or



and the chloroformate has the structure

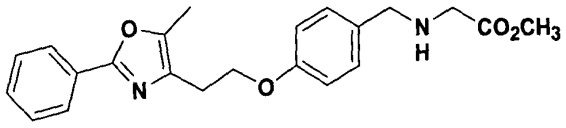


68. (New) A method for preparing a compound of the structure

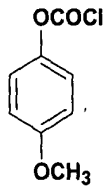


which comprises

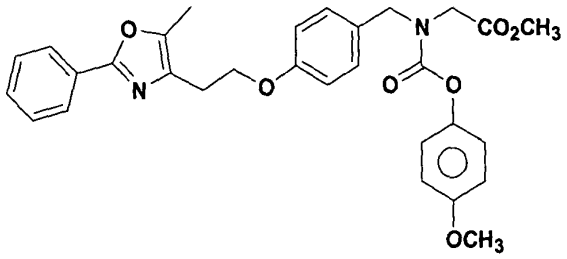
treating an amino ester of the structure



as defined in Claim 55 with a chloroformate of the structure

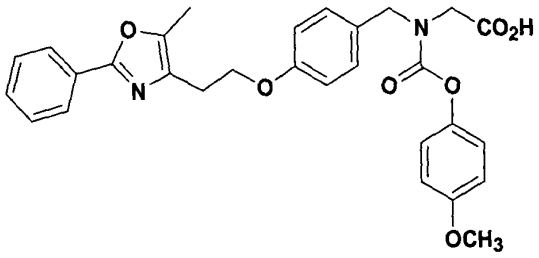


to form the amino ester of the structure



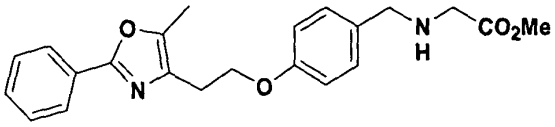
and treating the resulting amino ester with a base to form the corresponding amino acid.

69. (New) A method for preparing a compound of the structure

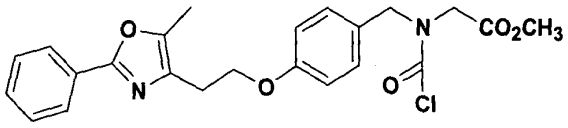


which comprises

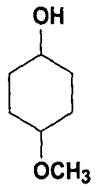
treating an amino ester of the structure



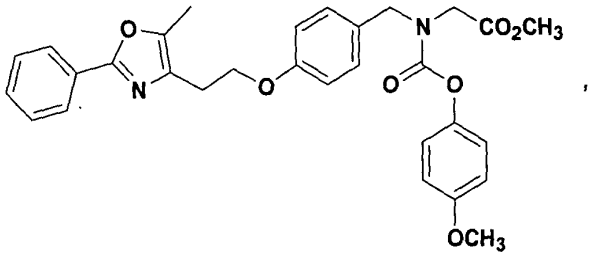
as defined in Claim 55 with phosgene to form the carbamoyl chloride of the structure



treating the resulting carbamoyl chloride with

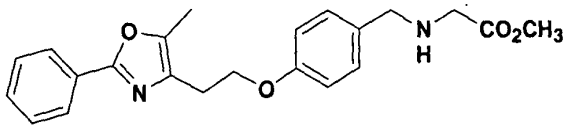


to form the amino ester of the structure

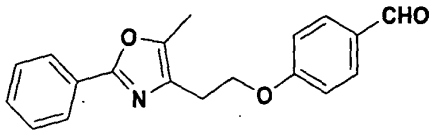


and treating the amino ester with a base to form the corresponding carboxylic acid.

70. (New) A method for preparing an amino ester of the structure



as defined in Claim 55, which comprises subjecting the aldehyde

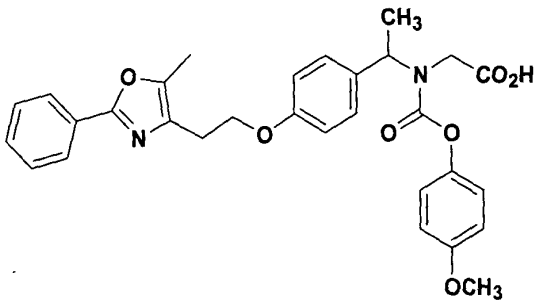


to reductive amination by treating the aldehyde with an amino acid salt of the structure

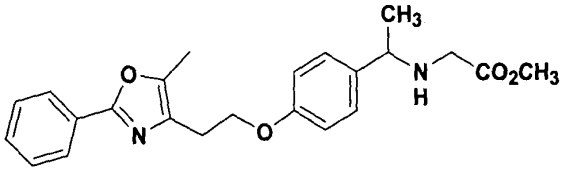
$$H_2N\ CH_2CO_2CH_3 \cdot HCl$$

in the presence of a base to form the amino ester.

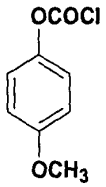
71. (New) A method for preparing a compound of the structure



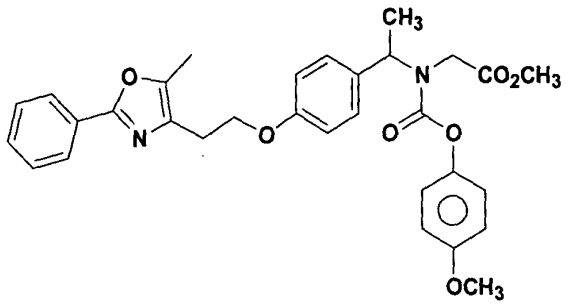
which comprises treating an amino ester of the structure



as defined in Claim 55 with a chloroformate of the structure

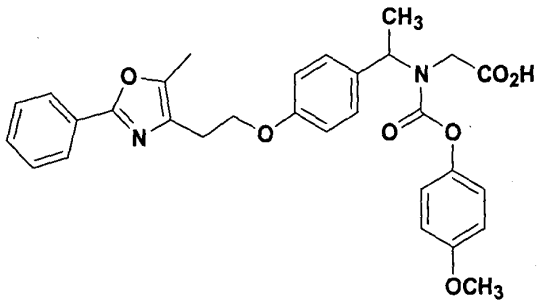


to form the amino ester of the structure



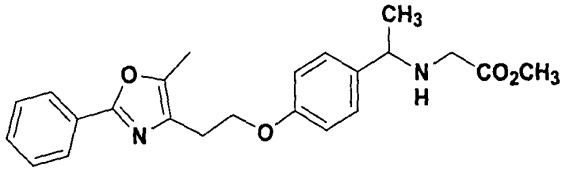
and treating the resulting amino ester with a base to form the corresponding amino acid.

72. (New) A method for preparing a compound of the structure

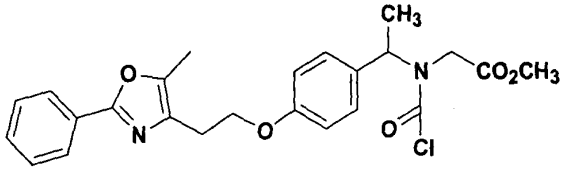


which comprises

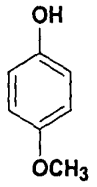
treating an amino ester of the structure



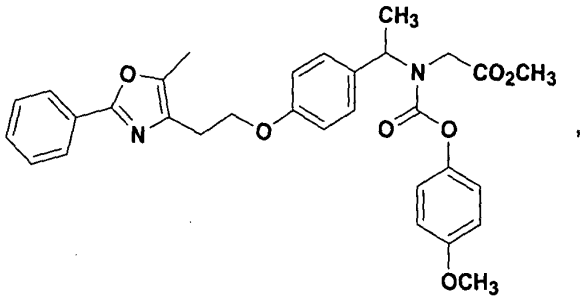
as defined in Claim 55 with phosgene to form the carbamoyl chloride of the structure



treating the carbamoyl chloride with

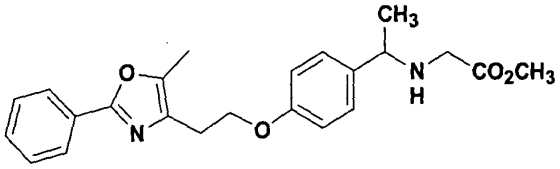


to form the amino ester of the structure



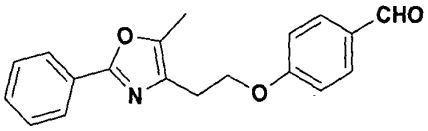
and treating the amino ester with a base to form the corresponding carboxylic acid.

73. (New) A method for preparing a compound of the structure



as defined in Claim 55 which comprises

(1) subjecting the aldehyde

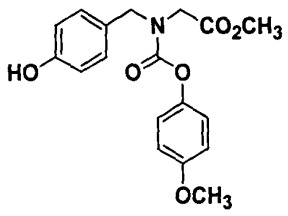


to reductive amination by treating the aldehyde with an amino acid salt of the structure

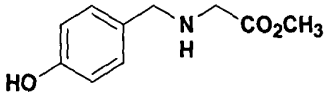
$H_2N\ CH_3CO_2CH_3 \cdot HCl$

in the presence of a base to form the amino ester.

74. (New) A method for preparing compound (d) as defined in Claim 55 having the structure

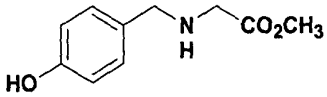


which comprises treating amino ester compound of the structure



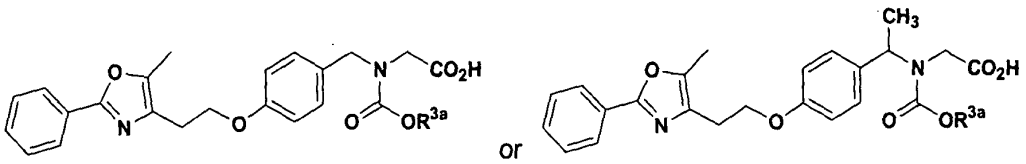
with 4-methoxyphenyl chloroformate in the presence of a base to form the compound (d).

75. (New) The method as defined in Claim 74 wherein the amino ester compound

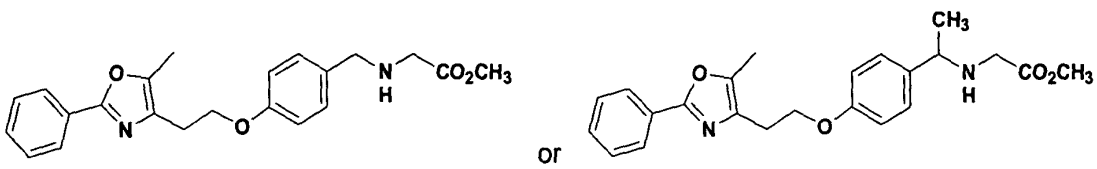


is prepared by reacting 4-hydroxybenzaldehyde and glycine methyl ester hydrochloride in the presence of a base.

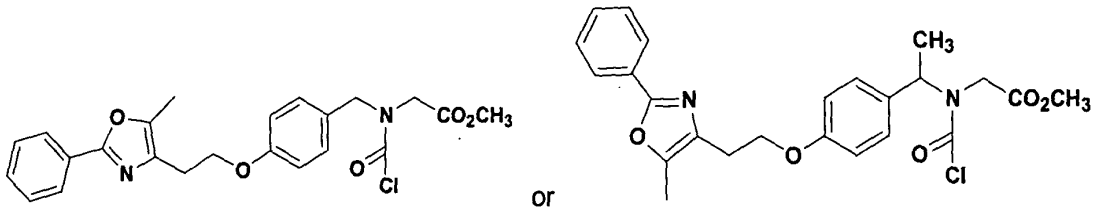
76. (New) A method for preparing a compound of the structure



which comprises treating the amino ester of the structure

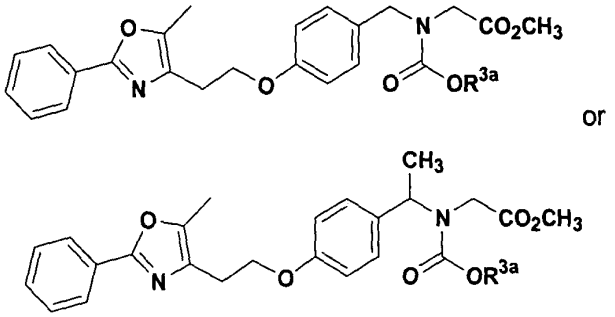


as defined in Claim 55 with phosgene to form the carbamoyl chloride of the structure



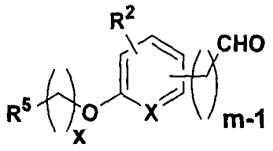
and treating the carbamoyl chloride with $R^{3a}OH$

where R^{3a} is alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl, to form the amino ester of the structure

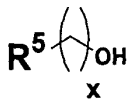


and treating the amino ester with a base to form the corresponding carboxylic acid.

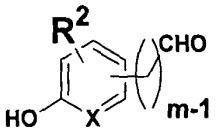
77. (New) The method as defined in Claim 58 wherein the starting aldehyde of the structure.



is prepared by treating an alcohol of the structure



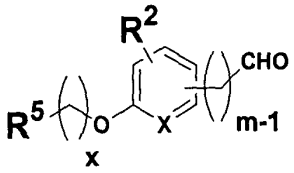
with a hydroxyaryl aldehyde of the structure



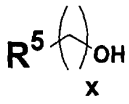
under Mitsunobu reaction conditions to form the starting aldehyde.

78. (New) The method as defined in Claim 77 wherein the alcohol is 2-phenyl-5-methyl-oxazole-4-ethanol and the hydroxyaryl aldehyde is 3- or 4-hydroxybenzaldehyde.

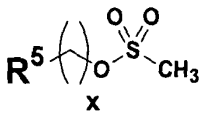
79. (New) The method as defined in Claim 58 wherein the starting aldehyde of the structure



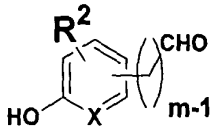
is prepared by treating an alcohol of the structure



with methanesulfonyl chloride to form the corresponding mesylate of the structure



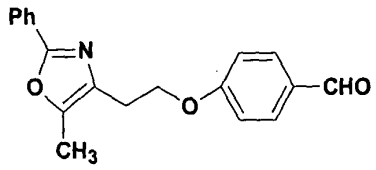
and treating the mesylate with a hydroxyaryl aldehyde of the structure



to form the starting aldehyde.

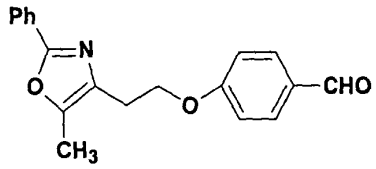
80. (New) The method as defined in Claim 79 wherein the alcohol is 2-[2-phenyl-5-methyloxazole-4-yl]ethanol and the aldehyde is 4-hydroxybenzaldehyde.

81. (New) The method as defined in Claim 70 wherein the starting aldehyde of the structure



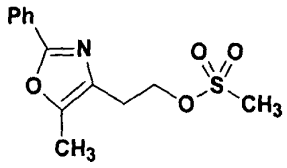
is prepared by treating a solution of 4-hydroxybenzaldehyde, 5-phenyl-2-methyl-oxazole-4-ethanol and triphenylphosphine with diethyl azodicarboxylate to form the starting aldehyde.

82. (New) The method as defined in Claim 70 wherein the starting aldehyde of the structure



is prepared by reacting 5-phenyl-2-methyl-oxazole-4-ethanol and methanesulfonyl chloride, cooling the reaction mixture and treating the reaction mixture with triethylamine to form the mesylate of the

structure



and reacting the mesylate with 4-hydroxybenzaldehyde under basic calculations to form the starting aldehyde.